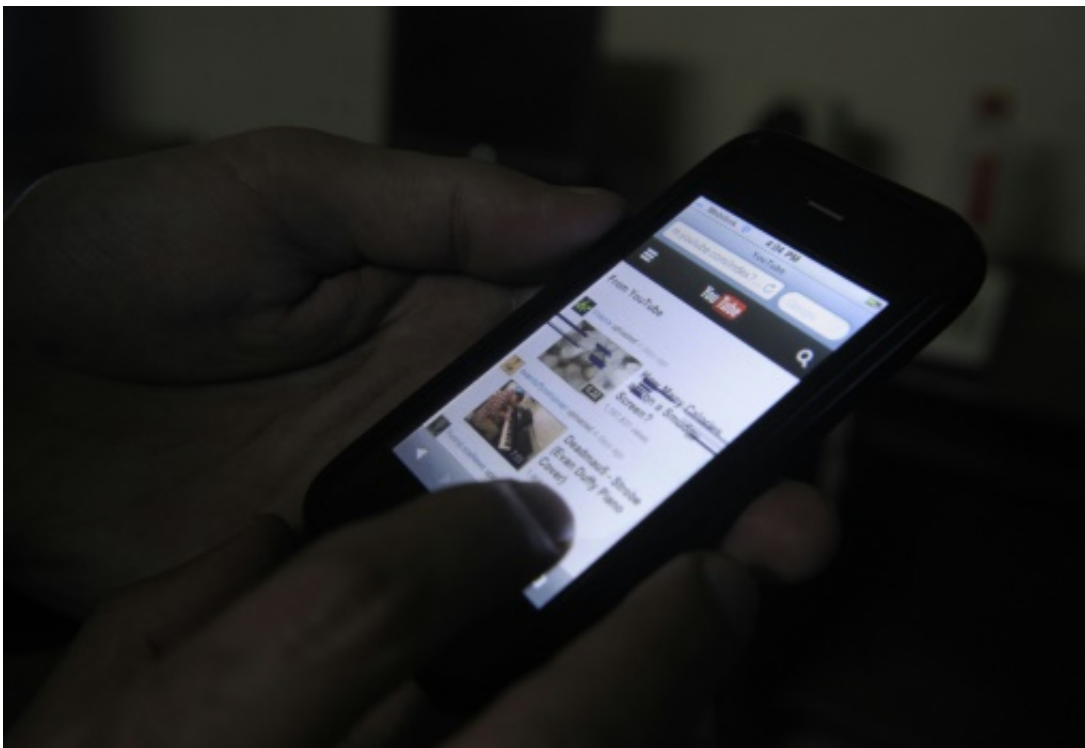


YouTube ramps 360-degree video with 'Spotlight Stories'

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Dubbed "Spotlight Stories," the new feature will be viewable on the YouTube app of an array of Android-powered smartphones

YouTube on Tuesday added interactive, 360-degree animation video to its line-up, with help from the makers of "Wallace and Gromit."

Dubbed "Spotlight Stories," the new feature will be viewable on the YouTube app of an array of Android-powered smartphones.

Showcasing the technology was a Santa-themed short film from Academy Award-winning studio Aardman Animations, entitled "Special Delivery."

The animated short centers on a building custodian trying to find a "mysterious stranger" who remains just out of sight but leaves behind a trail of gifts.

Designed by Google as a new form of storytelling, the immersive films allow users to drill down into sub-stories within their plot by moving their phone towards what they want to see.

"The sensors on your phone allow the story to be interactive, so when you move your [phone](#) to various scenes, you unlock mini-stories within the story," technical project lead Rachid El Guerrab said in a blog post.

"Special Delivery" features 10 subplots and three potential endings.

Google Spotlight Stories will be expanded next year to more Android devices as well as a YouTube application for mobile devices powered by Apple software, El Guerrab said.

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